

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 8-11. Support can be found in Claims 8-11 as originally filed. Claim 12 has been amended for clarity. Support can be found in the claim and in the specification at page 4, lines 8-12. Claims 13-18 have been newly added. Support can be found in the specification at page 3, lines 11-24.

No new matter has been added.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

On the outset, Applicant thanks Examiner Maust for indicating that Claim 12 is allowable. Furthermore, Applicant thanks Examiner Maust for indicating that Claim 11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent format. Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable in view of the amendments.

The rejection of Claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of U.S. Patent 4,436,124 (Borstelmann) has been obviated by amendment. As the Examiner will note, Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 11. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is patentable over the cited reference for the same reasons that Claim 11 was not rejected in view of the cited reference.

Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of EP 1,323,667 (Vescovi et al.) has been obviated by amendment. As the Examiner will note, Claim 7 has been amended to include the limitations of Claim 11. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is patentable over the cited reference for the same reasons that Claim 11 was not rejected in view of the cited reference.

Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification thereof is requested.

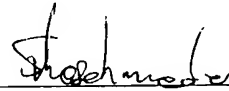
Respectfully submitted,

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